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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Penicillin Factory at Prague-Roztoky

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In 1946, a penicillin factory was constructed on the eastern edge of the city of Hostivar (051/L 88), located about 20 km from Prague. The equipment for penicillin production which was supplied by UIRRA was only held in storage at the plant for two years. In 1948, trial production of small quantities of liquid penicillin was initiated at the Hostivar plant. In the summer of 1949, penicillin production was discontinued and the equipment of the plant was moved to Prague-Roztoky. Thus the plant in Roztoky became the sole source of penicillin production in the CSR. Dr. Milos Herold, previously in charge of the Hostivar plant, was transferred to Roztoky as director of the new factory.

- Production at the Roztoky penicillin plant began in the latter part of 1949. Only one kind of penicillin is produced there, i.e., potassium salt penicillin (Kaliumsalzpenicillin) in liquid form. The production is sufficient to meet all CSR demands for this type of penicillin, but all other forms of penicillin must be imported, most of them coming from Holland.
- The initial output of the Roztoky plant after the initiation of production there in 1949 was 2,000 vials of 200,000 units each per week. Later, the quantity of production was greatly increased, so that in the summer of 1950 the plant reached a production of about 10,000 vials containing 200,000 units each in 10cc and also an unknown number of vials containing 200,000 in 5cc. It is believed that the volume of production has in the meanwhile been further increased. Tests by the Health Institute have shown that the 5cc vials are frequently deficient in units contained, so Czech hospitals customarily add 50 percent to the dosage when using these vials. The quality of penicillin produced at Roztoky, while recognized as good, does not meet all the standards of purity, and is even colored.
- The penicillin produced at Roztoky has a sensitivity of 0.02 to 0.04 I.E. per cc against staphylococci, i.e., 0.02 to 9.04 units in 1cc are lethal for 1cc of staphylococci. After tests conducted at the State Health Institute it was established that this penicillin is effective against the following bacteria: staphylococcus aureus, streptococcus pyogenes, strept. viridans, strept. anhemolyticus, pneumococcus, bacillus anthracis, Corynebacterium diphtheriae, actinomyces, Neisseria, Gonorrhea, meningitis, catarrhalis (sic), Spirochaeta, Clostridium welchii, Clostridium septicum, Clostridium tetani, and Clostridium oedematiens.

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5. In Prague there is only one military hospital besides the military dispensaries. This hospital and the dispensaries obtain as much penicillin as they require. With regard to the hospital, any particularly difficult cases which require specialized treatment are generally transferred to one of the civilian clinics for treatment. A new department, which is termed an "Infektionsabteilung", has been established in the Prague Military Hospital. In 1946 or 1947, four Soviet professors visited this department of the Military Hospital to give the personnel instructions in epidemic diseases (Masseninfektionen) such as cholera and typhus. One of these professors also spent about six months in the hospital at Pardubice.
6. The civilian hospital in Hradec Kralove (Koeniggratz - O 51/G 71) obtained 20 million units of penicillin per week in January 1950. With the increased production since then this hospital now receives a considerably greater quantity.

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